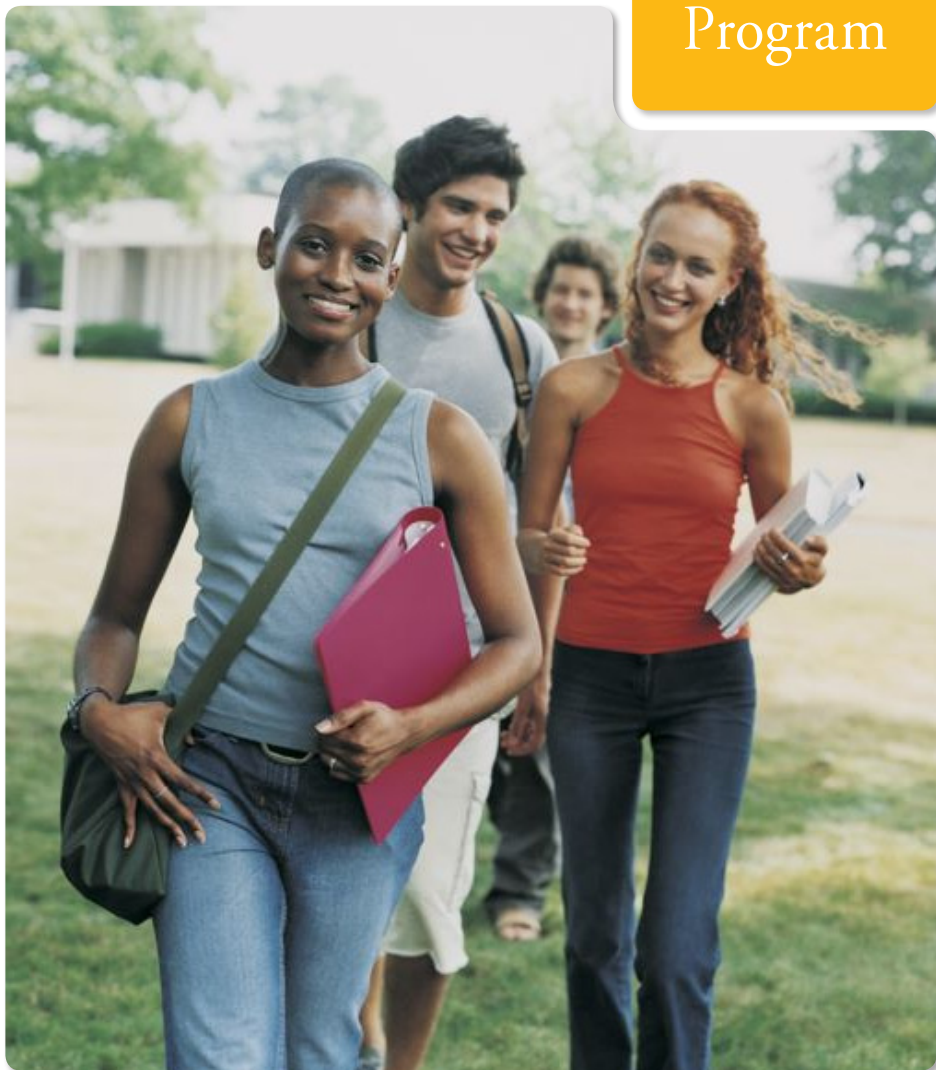


# Grad Planner

2011/12

## Graduation Program



# Grad Planner

## Graduation Program

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# Welcome to the Graduation Program!

You're about to start a new chapter in your education – and you have an opportunity to shape your future. You're going to make a lot of choices over your graduation program years. For the most part, you'll get to choose courses that interest you. You'll have choices about where and how you learn. The choices you make will help you realize your potential.

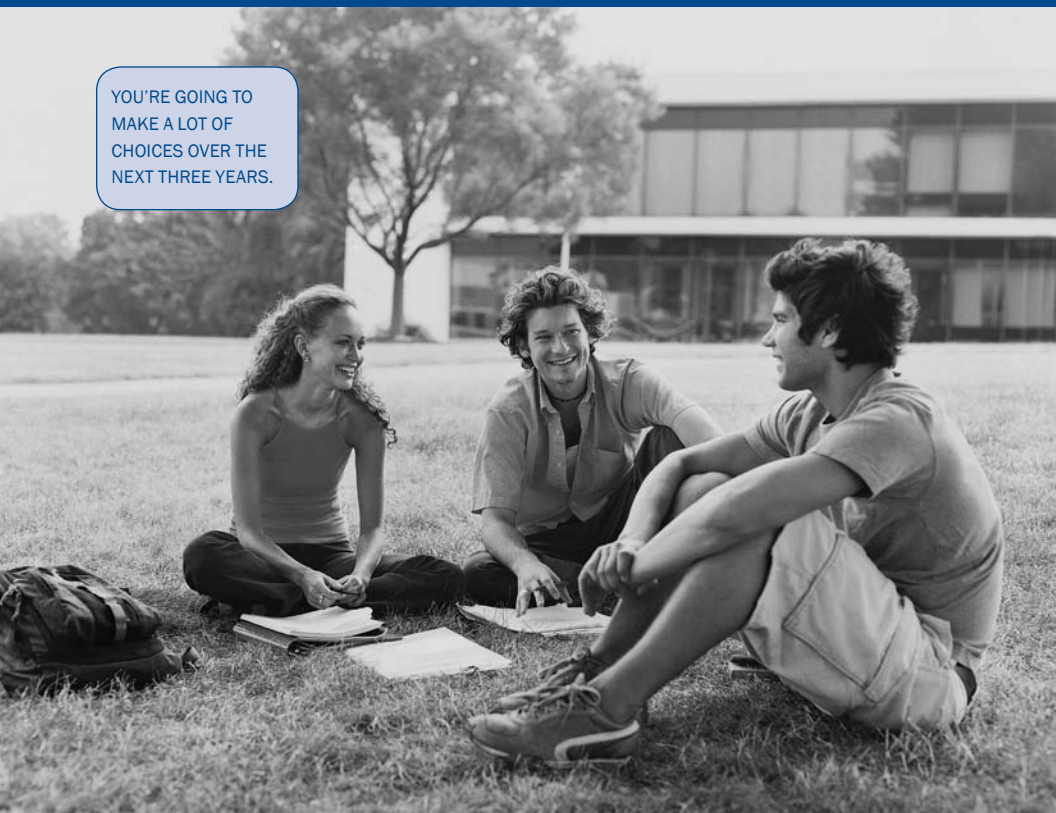
The Graduation Program provides an opportunity for you to discover what you want to do in the future. This document helps you get started. It explains what's required and where you have choices. It also covers exams, scholarships, funding, and links to web sites with helpful information.

It's your guide to three of the most important years of your education.

Use these years to learn, discover, grow, explore and try new things. And choose the path that best reflects your interests and your dreams.

Your future starts here. Only you can make it great!

YOU'RE GOING TO  
MAKE A LOT OF  
CHOICES OVER THE  
NEXT THREE YEARS.



# 1 What You Need to Graduate

## At a Glance

Starting this year, you have a lot more choice about what you learn. But, in order to graduate with a Dogwood Diploma, every student in the Graduation Program has to pass certain courses, such as English, math and science. The table provides an overview of what you need to graduate:

- > 48 credits from required courses
- > 28 credits from electives
- > 4 credits from your Graduation Transitions Program

Preparing now will help ensure you get the credits you need to achieve your goals. Graduation requirements are introduced in Planning 10. For more help, talk to your teacher or school counsellor.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT REQUIRED COURSES CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 6.  
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ELECTIVE CREDITS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 10.  
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GRADUATION TRANSITIONS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 11.

REQUIRED COURSES	
SUBJECT AREA	Minimum Credits
Planning 10	4
a Language Arts 10*	4
a Language Arts 11*	4
a Language Arts 12*	4
a Mathematics 10*	4
a Mathematics 11 or 12*	4
a Fine Arts and/or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12*	4
Social Studies 10	4
a Social Studies 11 or 12*	4
a Science 10	4
a Science 11 or 12*	4
Physical Education 10	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>48 credits</b>
ELECTIVE CREDITS	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits from Grade 10-12 courses.	Minimum Credits
<i>Additional Grade 10-12 credits**</i>	<b>28 credits</b>
GRADUATION TRANSITIONS	
Students must earn 4 credits for Graduation Transitions.	<b>4 credits</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>80 credits</b>
* See pages 6 – 10 for eligible courses	
** Of the 80 credits for graduation, at least 16 must be at the Grade 12 level, including a Grade 12 Language Arts course. Others may be required courses or elective credits.	

CHOICE IS AN  
IMPORTANT PART OF  
THE GRADUATION  
PROGRAM. YOU HAVE  
LOTS OF OPTIONS,  
EVEN FOR MANY  
REQUIRED COURSES.

## Required Courses

The following section describes the courses required for graduation. You have some choice within these requirements. For example, there are different math, science, and language arts options. Check which options are available at your school and, if applicable, which ones you need for entry to a post-secondary institution. Certain courses may be necessary for college or university entrance.

### Planning 10

This course helps you build the skills you need to make informed choices about your future. The skills you develop in Planning 10 will help you well beyond graduation, as you move forward with your adult life. You'll do research, set goals, and start to make informed decisions about health topics and issues, education and career options, and ways to finance those options.

In Planning 10, you plan for your Graduation Program. You also start collecting evidence of your accomplishments for your Graduation Transitions presentation. (Information concerning Graduation Transitions can be found on page 11.) Your school will have guidelines about the process and type of demonstration that will meet the expectations for the Graduation Transitions presentation.

## Language Arts 10, 11 and 12

These courses are about communication.

You succeed in school and life by reading and writing effectively. Gathering, organizing, and presenting information effectively are also important communication skills.

Language Arts 10, 11, and 12 are required for graduation. In Grade 10, your choices include English 10, English 10 First Peoples, or Français langue première 10. In Grade 11, common choices are English 11, English 11 First Peoples, Français langue première 11, or Communications 11. In Grade 12, you can choose from English 12, Français langue première 12, English 12 First Peoples, Communications 12, and others that might be offered at your school. (You can take more than one at each grade level.)

## Mathematics 10 and 11 or 12

Mathematics is about more than numbers.

It's also about space and shape, statistics, reasoning, solving problems, and using logic.

To graduate, everyone must complete a Grade 10 mathematics course plus a second math course at the Grade 11 or 12 level. You might need more math courses if you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12. Check with post-secondary institutions to determine which math courses they require for admission. Depending on the school you attend, there could be many mathematics options available to you.

British Columbia is in the process of implementing a new Mathematics curriculum for Grades 10-12. Students entering Grade 11 in 2011 can choose from three new Mathematics courses. Students in Grade 12 could switch to the new Mathematics courses or stay with the old Mathematics courses. The table lists the

choices students have at each grade level.

	<b>New Mathematics Curriculum</b>	<b>Old Mathematics Curriculum</b>
<b>Grade 10</b> (2 courses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics 10</li> <li>• Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10</li> </ul>	No Longer Available
<b>Grade 11</b> (3 courses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics 11</li> <li>• Foundations of Mathematics 11</li> <li>• Pre-Calculus 11</li> </ul>	No Longer Available
<b>Grade 12</b> (3 courses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics 12</li> <li>• Foundations of Mathematics 12</li> <li>• Pre-Calculus 12</li> </ul> <p>These courses will be available July 1, 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essentials of Mathematics 12</li> <li>• Applications of Mathematics 12</li> <li>• Principles of Mathematics 12</li> </ul> <p>These courses will close June 30, 2012</p>

As noted in the table, Essentials of Mathematics, Applications of Mathematics, and Principles of Mathematics are being phased out. In their place will be the following three new Mathematics pathways:

**Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics:**

These courses provide the mathematics identified as important for entry into the majority of trades, and for direct entry into the workforce.

**Foundations of Mathematics:** These courses provide the mathematics identified as important for post-secondary studies in programs that do not require the study of theoretical calculus, such as arts and humanities.



**Pre-Calculus:** These courses provide the mathematics identified as important for post-secondary studies in programs that require the study of theoretical calculus, such as science and engineering.

In order to determine which courses are appropriate for you and your future, talk to your teacher or school counsellor for more detailed information.

## **Fine Arts and Applied Skills 10, 11, 12**

These courses help you understand and appreciate applied learning and creative works. Both areas emphasize hands-on learning.

- Fine Arts include Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts.
- Applied Skills include Business Education, Home Economics, Information Technology, and Technology Education.

To graduate, you need four credits in either Fine Arts, Applied Skills, or a combination of both.

## **Social Studies 10 and 11 or 12**

These courses help you understand the world and your place in it. You learn about events, issues, and themes from the past and present. You also develop skills that help you think critically and become a responsible citizen.

To graduate, you must complete Social Studies 10. You must also complete a Social Studies 11 or 12 course, such as Social Studies 11, Civic Studies 11, or BC First Nations Studies 12.

CHECK WITH YOUR  
SCHOOL TO SEE  
WHICH OPTIONS ARE  
AVAILABLE.



## Science 10 and 11 or 12

These courses help you understand the natural world. You'll develop skills related to observation, measurement, problem-solving and critical thinking.



To graduate, you must complete a Grade 10 science course. You must also complete a second science course at the Grade 11 or 12 level. Some options are agriculture, applications of physics, biology, chemistry, earth science, forestry, geology, and science and technology. Check with your school to see what options are available.



## Physical Education 10

This course will help you attain and maintain an active, healthy lifestyle.

To graduate, you must complete Physical Education 10, even if you are actively involved in sports or physical activities outside of school. You must also meet the Daily Physical Activity standard for Graduation Transitions during your graduation years. See the next page for more information about Graduation Transitions.

## Elective Credits

To graduate, you need 28 elective credits from courses numbered 10, 11, or 12. That's in addition to the credits you need from required courses and your Graduation Transitions Program. When you take two required courses in the same subject area, one will count as an elective.

THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE WHEN YOU CHOOSE YOUR ELECTIVES. YOU MAY NEED CERTAIN COURSES TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS.

Choose elective credits based on your interests, abilities, plans, and courses available to you. If you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12, you may need certain courses to enter the program you want. (You'll learn more

about post-secondary entry requirements in Planning 10.)

To find out what elective courses are available in your school or district, talk to your school counsellor. Check out the “Getting Credits” section of this document to learn about other ways of earning graduation credits.

## Graduation Transitions

Four of the 80 credits you need for graduation come from Graduation Transitions. Graduation Transitions encourages you to:

- > take ownership of your health and learning
- > examine and demonstrate connections between your learning and your future
- > create a plan for your growth and development as a skilled, healthy, knowledgeable, participating citizen
- > exhibit attributes of a model B.C. graduate

Graduation Transitions provides an opportunity for you to reflect on your knowledge and abilities and plan for life after graduation by collecting evidence of your achievements in the following required areas:

### Personal Health

It is expected that you will demonstrate the attitudes, knowledge, and positive habits needed to be a healthy individual, responsible for your own physical and emotional well-being, by:

- > engaging in and recording at least 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous physical activity in each of Grades 10-12, and
- > developing a long-term personal healthy living plan appropriate to your lifestyle.

YOU'LL LEARN  
ABOUT GRADUATION  
TRANSITIONS IN  
PLANNING 10.

## Community Connections

It is expected that you will demonstrate the skills required to work effectively and safely with others and to succeed as an individual and collaborative worker, by:

- participating in at least 30 hours of work experience and/or community service, and
- describing the duties performed, the connections between the experience and employability and life skills, and the benefits to yourself and the community.

## Career and Life

It is expected that you will demonstrate the confidence and competence needed to be a self-directed individual, by:

- developing a comprehensive plan that indicates you are prepared to successfully transition from secondary school, and
- presenting selected components of your transition plan to members of the school and/or community.

More information about Graduation Transitions is available at [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad\\_certificate.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad_certificate.htm)

THE GRADUATION  
TRANSITIONS  
PRESENTATION IS  
AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO SHOWCASE  
YOUR UNIQUE  
ACHIEVEMENTS IN  
WHATEVER WAYS  
YOU CHOOSE.

# 2 | Getting Credits Toward Graduation

## In-School Course Credits

You may earn most of your credits toward graduation the traditional way – by successfully completing school-based courses. But there are other ways of earning credits, and some of these might work for you.

Read through the following list of other options. For more information, talk to your school counsellor or go to:

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/earning\\_credit\\_through.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/earning_credit_through.htm)

Special rules concerning some of these options apply to some international students. If you are an international student, you may want to ask your school counsellor if the rules apply to you.

## Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses

These courses may appeal to students whose future plans include university. There are different options, and choices vary from school to school.

## Other Options

### Distributed Learning

Is there a course you'd like to take, but you can't get in your school or it doesn't fit in your timetable? Now you can choose from thousands of courses offered by public and independent distributed learning schools in B.C. Distributed learning occurs primarily at a distance from the teacher.

It can be print-based, online, or a mix of both, and may include a face-to-face component. You have the flexibility to learn anytime, anywhere, and at any pace, and B.C. residents do not pay tuition fees. For more information visit [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist\\_learning/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist_learning/) or the LearnNowBC portal ([www.learnnowbc.ca](http://www.learnnowbc.ca)). LearnNowBC services include a province-wide course finder, free tutoring services for many courses, and academic advising.



## Equivalency (documented prior learning)

Have you completed a course outside a B.C. school? Did you earn a certificate that shows substantive learning outside of school?

If so, you might qualify for credit for an equivalent course in the B.C. school system. If you can document your learning (with a report card or transcript, for example) you can ask the school for an equivalency review.

The review will determine whether you're entitled to credits and, if so, how many.

If you went to a school where the classes were taught in a language other than English, you might qualify for credits for equivalent B.C. language courses. To learn more about equivalency, talk to your school counsellor.

STUDYING FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME OVER SEVERAL DAYS OR WEEKS IS MORE CONDUCTIVE TO RETAINING INFORMATION THAN A SINGLE PERIOD OF CONCENTRATED STUDY ("CRAMMING").

WHEN STUDYING FOR HOURS AT A TIME, TAKE A BREAK EVERY HOUR OR SO TO CLEAR YOUR MIND AND ALLOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED TO SINK IN.

## External Credentials

If you achieve a high level of performance in areas outside school, you might earn credits for these learning activities.

Examples include: computer certification courses, Cadets, some driver education courses, involvement in provincial or national sports teams, and some music and dance courses.

Some external credentials count as "required course" credits, while most count as elective credits.

More information about external credentials can be found at: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/ext\\_credentials/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/ext_credentials/)

## Course Challenge

Some students acquire skills or knowledge that is not documented. In other words, they have no paper (certificate, transcript, etc.) that verifies they have the skills or knowledge. If you're in

that position, you may be able to earn credits by challenging a course.

Challenge is a process that assesses your knowledge and skills to determine whether you've met the learning outcomes for a similar course. If you have, you might get credit for the course without having to take it.

Each school authority has its own challenge process. Students in public schools cannot be charged a fee for challenging a course.

## Independent Directed Studies (IDS)

If you are interested in a specific subject area, you might want to think about Independent Directed Studies. IDS allows you to shape and follow your own course or courses, with a teacher's approval and supervision. IDS course credits count as electives toward graduation.

To qualify for IDS, you need the approval of the school principal to expand on one or more learning outcomes from any Ministry or Board/Authority Authorized course (the school counsellor can help explain this). Then you'll need to find a teacher to supervise your studies before you initiate your own course. You'll work independently. The teacher will support you and assess your performance.

WRITING DOWN  
WHAT YOU'VE  
LEARNED IN YOUR  
OWN WORDS HELPS  
TO ENSURE THAT YOU  
UNDERSTAND AND  
CAN RECALL THE  
MATERIAL.

WHEN YOU HAVE  
SEVERAL DIFFERENT  
THINGS TO STUDY,  
VARY THE MATERIAL  
STUDIED EVERY SO  
OFTEN IN ORDER  
TO MAINTAIN  
INTEREST AND AID  
CONCENTRATION.

IDS IS AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
DEVELOP YOUR OWN  
COURSE OF STUDY.

## Post-Secondary Courses

Many courses completed at B.C. post-secondary institutions count toward graduation. The post-secondary transcript is proof of your achievements. You will need to provide this proof to your school.

In most cases, you can earn dual credits. That means you get credits toward your graduation and also toward a post-secondary

credential. To get dual credits, you have to take either:

- > a post-secondary course from an institution in the British Columbia Transfer System (see [www.bccat.bc.ca](http://www.bccat.bc.ca) for a list of institutions) or
- > a post-secondary course offered in French in conjunction with Educacentre ([www.educacentre.com](http://www.educacentre.com)).

Post-secondary courses count as elective credits at the Grade 12 level.

## Career Programs

SOME CAREER  
PROGRAMS INCLUDE  
WAGES SO YOU CAN  
EARN WHILE YOU  
LEARN.

Many schools offer specialized programs that help you explore careers or gain work experience.

Some of these programs also help you develop workplace skills or credentials. Check to see if your school offers any of the following:

### Industry Training Programs

These programs let you train for work while you're in secondary school, earn graduation credits, and possibly earn some money at the same time. Industry training programs include SSA and ACE IT.

#### Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA)

**Program:** You can earn up to 16 graduation credits and qualify for a \$1000 SSA scholarship.

#### Accelerated Credit Enrolment in Industry Training (ACE IT):

Credits you earn through ACE IT are equivalent to the first level of apprenticeship technical training. They count towards graduation.

### Career Preparation Programs

These help prepare you for the workplace or for further education and training in a specific career pathway.



The programs include coursework and work experience placements approved by your school. Some career preparation programs also provide entry-level skills for specific job opportunities.

## Cooperative Education Programs

These programs give you hands-on experience in different careers. They combine career exploration and skill enhancement with work experience.

# 3 | Putting it All Together

## Planning Your Future With Focus Areas

FOCUS AREAS CAN  
HELP YOU PLAN  
FOR LIFE AFTER  
GRADE 12.

Focus Areas help you learn about a broad range of education and career choices. They also help you choose an area of interest to pursue during the Graduation Program. Think about your Focus Area(s) when you select courses for Grades 11 and 12. Do the courses support your goals? Based on your own interests and aptitudes, you may concentrate your studies in one or more of the following Focus Areas:

- > Business and Applied Business
- > Fine Arts, Design, and Media
- > Fitness and Recreation
- > Health and Human Services
- > Liberal Arts and Humanities
- > Science and Applied Science
- > Tourism, Hospitality, and Foods
- > Trades and Technology

Use Focus Areas to research post-secondary programs at: [www.educationplanner.ca](http://www.educationplanner.ca)

# Planning for Life Beyond Grade 12

Graduating from secondary school is an important step toward a successful future. Grade 12 completion is the minimum requirement for most jobs in today's market. If you also have post-secondary education or training, chances are you'll have more job choices. B.C. has a wide range of post-secondary options. You'll learn more about these in Planning 10.



More information about B.C. post-secondary institutions can be found at:

[www.educationplanner.ca](http://www.educationplanner.ca)



## Oops!

Forgot a course? Need to improve a mark before you apply for post-secondary? You can upgrade.

Almost all school districts have continuing education centres that provide services to both secondary school graduates and non-graduates. These centres help adult non-graduates to finish their schooling. For more information, contact your local school district.



You can also upgrade with courses offered through distributed learning schools (see [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist\\_learning/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist_learning/)). Courses are free to B.C. residents. For additional details, please check out the above web site, explore the LearnNowBC portal ([www.learnnowbc.ca](http://www.learnnowbc.ca)), or contact a distributed learning school.

# 4 | Exams, Awards and Scholarships

## Graduation Program Exams

You will probably write five graduation program exams. Graduation program exams apply to courses in the following subject areas:

- > Grade 10 Language Arts
- > Grade 10 Science
- > Grade 10 Mathematics
- > Grade 11 or 12 Social Studies
- > Grade 12 Language Arts

Provincial exam results are blended with the classroom mark to generate the final course mark. Grade 10 and 11 exams count for 20% of the final mark. Grade 12 exams count for 40% of the final mark (except for the BC First Nations Studies 12 exam, which counts for 20%).

With the exception of certain IB courses, exams are mandatory for all the courses that you take in these areas; for example, if you take Social Studies 11 and BC First Nations Studies 12, you must write the associated provincial exam for both courses.

Consider these facts carefully as you plan your courses in the coming years.

Information about provincial exams can be found at:

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/student.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/student.htm)

Policies on calculators, cheating and other exam issues are at:

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/)

Sample exams are found at:

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/)

Student exam results can be accessed at:

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/)

## Financing Your Future

YOU'LL LEARN MORE  
ABOUT FINANCING  
YOUR FUTURE IN  
PLANNING 10.

It's never too early to think about how you'll pay for your future education. If you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12, you can start earning money from awards and scholarships even before you graduate.

See [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/)

### Passport to Education

To help offset the cost of tuition fees, Grade 10 and 11 students can earn \$250 for each school year, based on academic and non-academic achievements.

Grade 12 students can earn \$500 for their Passport to Education Award. Check with your school for specific requirements.

### Graduation Program Examinations Scholarships

Students who write provincial exams might qualify to win a scholarship worth \$1,000 or \$2,500.

The awards are based on academic achievement. The money can only be used for tuition at designated post-secondary institutions.

## Dogwood District/Authority Awards

These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating students who excel in:

- > Fine Arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
- > Applied Skills (Business Education, Technology Education, Home Economics)
- > physical activity (not limited to Physical Education)
- > second languages (including aboriginal languages)

Students must apply for these scholarships at their school or district office.

## Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarships

These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating secondary school apprentices who:

- > successfully complete SSA 11A, 11B, 12A and 12B
- > maintain a C+ average or better in their Grade 12 courses
- > continue working or training full-time in the trade for at least five months (or 1,100 apprenticeable hours) after secondary school graduation

## Other Awards

Thousands of other scholarships and awards are available to graduating students. For a list (searchable by name, school, field of study or scholarship provider), go to:

[www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com)



# Helpful Web Sites

Throughout this document, you're encouraged to check different web sites for more information. Here's a quick summary that you can refer to as you plan your future.



## For information on the Graduation Program and Graduation Transitions

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad\\_certificate.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad_certificate.htm)



## For information on B.C. Ministry of Education policies

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/)



## To learn more about career planning, building work skills and post-secondary options

[www.workbc.ca](http://www.workbc.ca)

[www.workfutures.bc.ca](http://www.workfutures.bc.ca)

[www.educationplanner.ca](http://www.educationplanner.ca)

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/)

[www.bccat.bc.ca](http://www.bccat.bc.ca)

## For information on earning credits through external credentials

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/ext\\_credentials/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/ext_credentials/)

**For information about industry training and trades programs**

[www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca)

**To explore options for completing graduation requirements via distributed learning**

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist\\_learning/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist_learning/)

**For information about finances and Planning 10**

[www.bcsc.bc.ca/planning10/](http://www.bcsc.bc.ca/planning10/)

## **A Few Last Words**

As you have seen, this document contains a lot of information, but it will make sense as you move through the year and especially as you work through Planning 10.

The Graduation Program encourages you to take more responsibility for your learning decisions. You'll plan and make choices about your future. You'll have an opportunity to develop your potential. Use this document as a reference throughout your graduation years.

The graduation years are exciting. Make the most of this time!

### **Our commitment to education:**

Education is the most important investment we can make in our children's lives. The Province of B.C. is committed to building a top-notch system that puts students first.

For more information, visit [www.bced.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca)

Notes